Tactical SMEAC – Freedom Convoy

18 Feb, 2022

Situation

The Freedom Convoy is an ongoing protest against government imposed Covid 19 restrictions and mandates. Truck convoys from across Canada converged on Ottawa on January 29, 2022. Truck convoys were reinforced by numerous smaller vehicles as well as pedestrians. They appear to have fragmented leadership, but the general demand is that they will not leave until all mandates are lifted. Some of the more extreme groups have demanded that the Federal Government step down.

It is estimated that there are approximately 500 trucks in the city. Many have been parked and abandoned while others are used by drivers to sleep in. Pedestrian and small vehicle support pours in on weekends increasing their numbers to an estimated 5000-7000.

Large trucks have been parked strategically in the downtown core. The bulk of them are on Wellington Street, Kent Street, Bank Street, Metcalfe Street, and the Sir John A MacDonald Parkway.

Mission

Tactical Units will provide support to Public Order Units as they clear protestors and vehicles from the city in order to ensure the safety of members of the public, police personnel and protestors.

Execution

General Outline – 4 Phases

Phase 1:

Approach and RV

Tactical Unit will meet Public Order Units at a pre-determined staging area. All Units will proceed to the designated start point and form up to begin the methodical clearing of protestors and vehicles.

- Tactical Unit with deconflict IA procedures with the POU Commander to include but not limited to:
    - Procedures for a major police incident with serious injuries or death
    - Active threat in a crowd
    - IED/IID Discovery
    - Hostile vehicle
    - Lethal Over-watch activation
- This deconfliction should happen with every deployment cycle as the tactical teams may change for POU Deployment cycles

Phase 2

Clearing Phase

Tactical will provide the following support to the POU clearing section:

8 x 2 member Overwatch teams will be strategically placed in various locations to provide overwatch support and real time intelligence updates to the Command Structure as well as to members on the ground. Overwatch will be deployed from approximately 0500hrs until darkness renders them ineffective.

1. **2 member** cover team to provide cover to POU members as they approach and engage with vehicle occupants

2. **6 member IAT** – Staged either in a vehicle or on foot behind the POU clearing cell. They are tasked with containing and resolving any barricaded occupant situations. Additionally, they can immediately provide any other assistance the situation may require.
   2 x 6 member IAT's – to be staged nearby to immediately respond to additional barricades. This will permit Tactical to respond to 3 barricaded person situation simultaneously. Each IAT will have their own Armored Vehicle.

3. **4 member mobile QRT –** Staged in a vehicle strategically close to the event and tasked with responding to high risk events that may occur in other areas of the protest.

4. **3 member/medical and Armored Vehicle –** Staged in close proximity behind the POU clearing cell with one member in the Turret allowing him to provide observation from a raised position. The vehicle will provide a point of cover for officers on the ground if required. Additionally, it can be used as a rescue vehicle.

Armored vehicle will follow close behind Public Order members as they move from truck to truck. A cover officer will be in the turret providing security as they move. The option to have the armored vehicle lead is an option and can be employed should the situation require it.

In the event of an active shooter POU members will seek cover while Tactical cover officers, QRT , Armored vehicle and sniper units attempt to deal with the threat.

Phase 3

Stabilization / Maintenance Phase:

Tactical Units will provide support to Patrol and Public Order Sections as required while the area is being secured. This includes the removal of any trucks that need to be towed and structures that need to be taken down.

The deployment model for this phase is dependent on the presence of protestors and the number of trucks that need to be removed. Tactical will provide support until the threat to members and the public is at a level where support is no longer required.

Phase 4

Demobilization

At the discretion of the Incident Commander all Tactical resources will be released and the scene will be maintained by Patrol Officers.

Actions on:

Barricaded Persons – Feeney required unless exigent.

a) Hostile Barricaded Person - Entry team will utilize tactics and equipment to effect the arrest. Options include window breach, insertion of chemical munitions manually or through the use of barricade penetrating chemical dispersion rounds. Hostile occupant may include but is not limited to those who lock doors, use the vehicle horn, have a dog identified as a possible threat, appear to be attempting to set their vehicle in motion.
   - Spike belts will be set up directly under the wheels at the first sign of non-compliance to mitigate possible movement. Attempt to release airbrake pressure from the exterior to contain vehicle.
   - Request for 4 apprehension K9 teams made. These dogs are able to enter vehicles to assist with the apprehension.
   - The threat of a hostile large truck going mobile is significant. The most effective way to mitigate this threat is to take immediate measures to take away the opportunity for the driver to go mobile by gaining control of the driver before he is able to drive.

b) Armed Barricaded Person – isolate and contain. SOP's actions at the discretion of CIC.
c) Passive occupant / Family refusing to exit a vehicle – Advise CIC. Contain and consider Negotiator / PLT. Tactical IAT to remain with the vehicle until given further direction by CIC. Entry can be made by prying door open or using a rescue device to breach the window if required.
d) Confirmed empty vehicles – continue clearing
e) Unconfirmed or possibly empty vehicles – Attempt to make contact with potential occupants. If unsuccessful - breach and confirm vehicle is empty based on the risk associated with leaving a possible unknown threat behind the advancing members
f) Camping Trailers – knock and call out. Breach and search using Scout Robot followed by stealth search to confirm its empty.

Shots Fired – React, assess and communicate. QRT to respond

IED's or Suspicious Packages – Integrated CBRNE Unit will be on scene and attend immediately

Hostages – OPS and or agency SOP's.

Hostile Mobile Vehicle – options include:

a) Attempt to box in with Armored Vehicle
b) Deploy barricade penetrating Chemical Munitions
c) Immediate intervention to take control of occupants prior to the vehicle going mobile
d) Rendering vehicle immobile prior to it moving by cutting brake lines (mechanic required)

e) Traffic barriers pre deployed by Traffic to limit movement or prevent a truck from going mobile.
f) If there is an imminent threat of serious bodily harm or death, lethal option utilized by Snipers or other officers.

Administration

Order of Dress:

Cover Teams – Full gear / ear and eye protection / gas masks readily available

IAT's – Full gear / ear and eye protection / gas masks readily available

QRT – Duty gear / long guns / ear and eye protection / gas masks and full gear readily available

Sniper Teams – as required based on deployment

Armored Vehicle – Full gear / ear and eye protection / gas masks readily available. Driver can remain in Patrol gear.

Equipment:

Cover Teams – All required personal equipment

IAT's :

- Window punch
- Rake and break
- Chemical munitions – OC Mk9 / Vapor. CS / Barricade penetrating CS and ARWEN
- ARWEN
- Shield
- Spike belts
- Bolt cutters
- Hydraulic Ram
- Mirror
- Scout
- Pry bar

(equipment can be stored in the Armored Vehicle until required)

Armored Vehicle – All required personal equipment

QRT's :

- Operational vehicle – required equipment already on board

Chain of Command : TBD

Radio / Comms: TBD

Decon : City Hall underground parking – Elgin entrance

Start time : TBD

Down Room / Food – Shaw Center

Medical – 1 medic assigned to each Armored Vehicle

2 medics assigned to Tactical with transport capability

Appendix 1 – Sniper Deployment

8 Sniper / Observer Teams to be deployed.

Sierra's 1 and 2 will be able to be redeployed once their area of responsibility has been cleared.

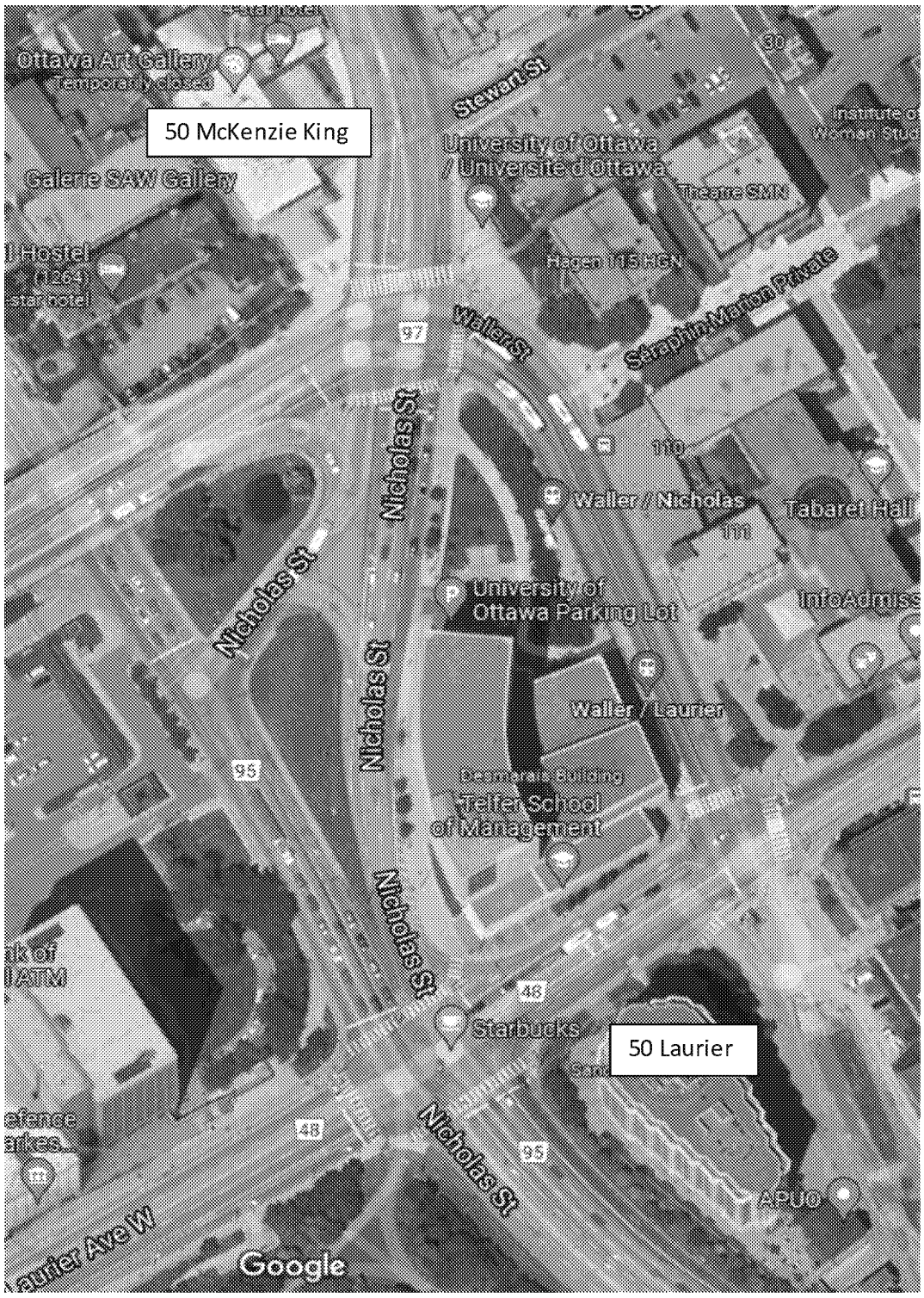
Sierra's 3-7 will be able to cover Wellington from Sussex to Bay upon initial deployment

Sierra 7 has a line of sight south on Kent St to the 417

Sierra 8 - TBD

Sierra 1 50 McKenzie King

Sierra 2 50 Laurier

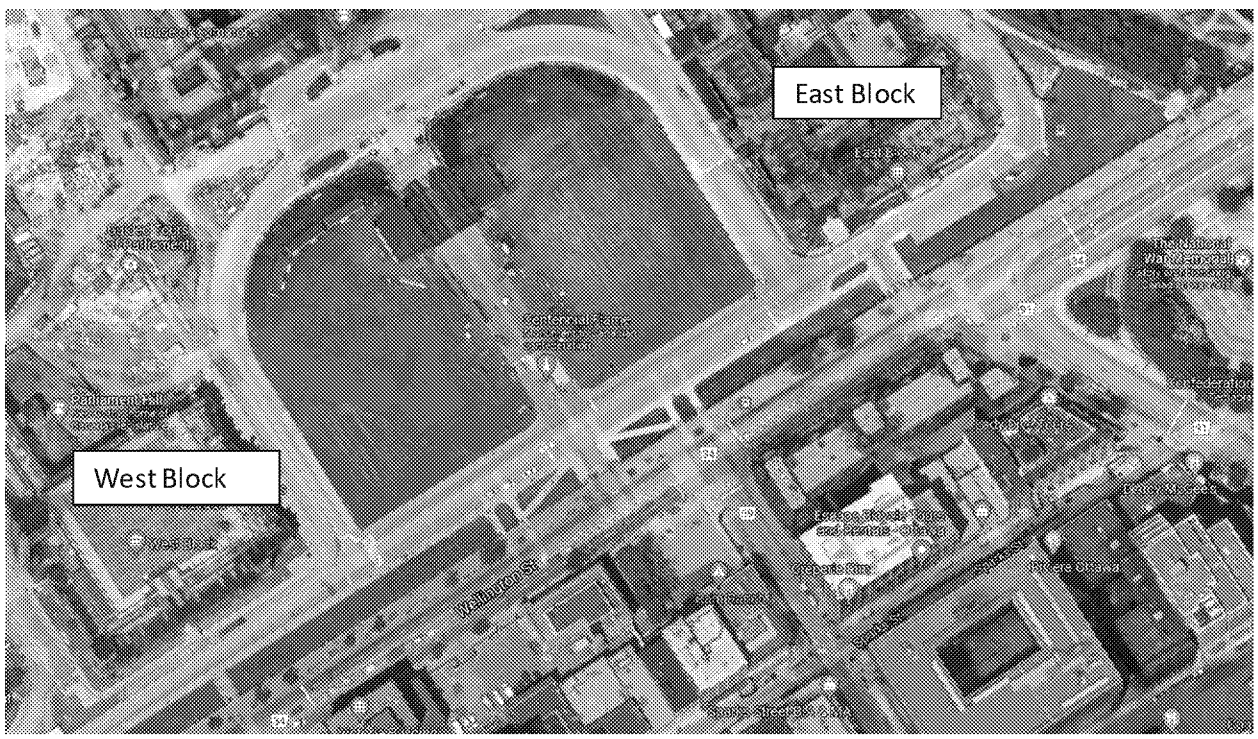

50 McKenzie King
50 Laurier
Ottawa Art Gallery
Galerie SAW Gallery
Stewart St
University of Ottawa / Université d'Ottawa
Theatre SMX
Waller St
Stephanie Menard Private
Nicholas St
Waller / Nicholas
Tabaret Hall
University of Ottawa Parking Lot
Waller / Laurier
Telfer School of Management
Starbucks
APUO
Laurier Ave W
Google

Sierra 3 45 Rideau

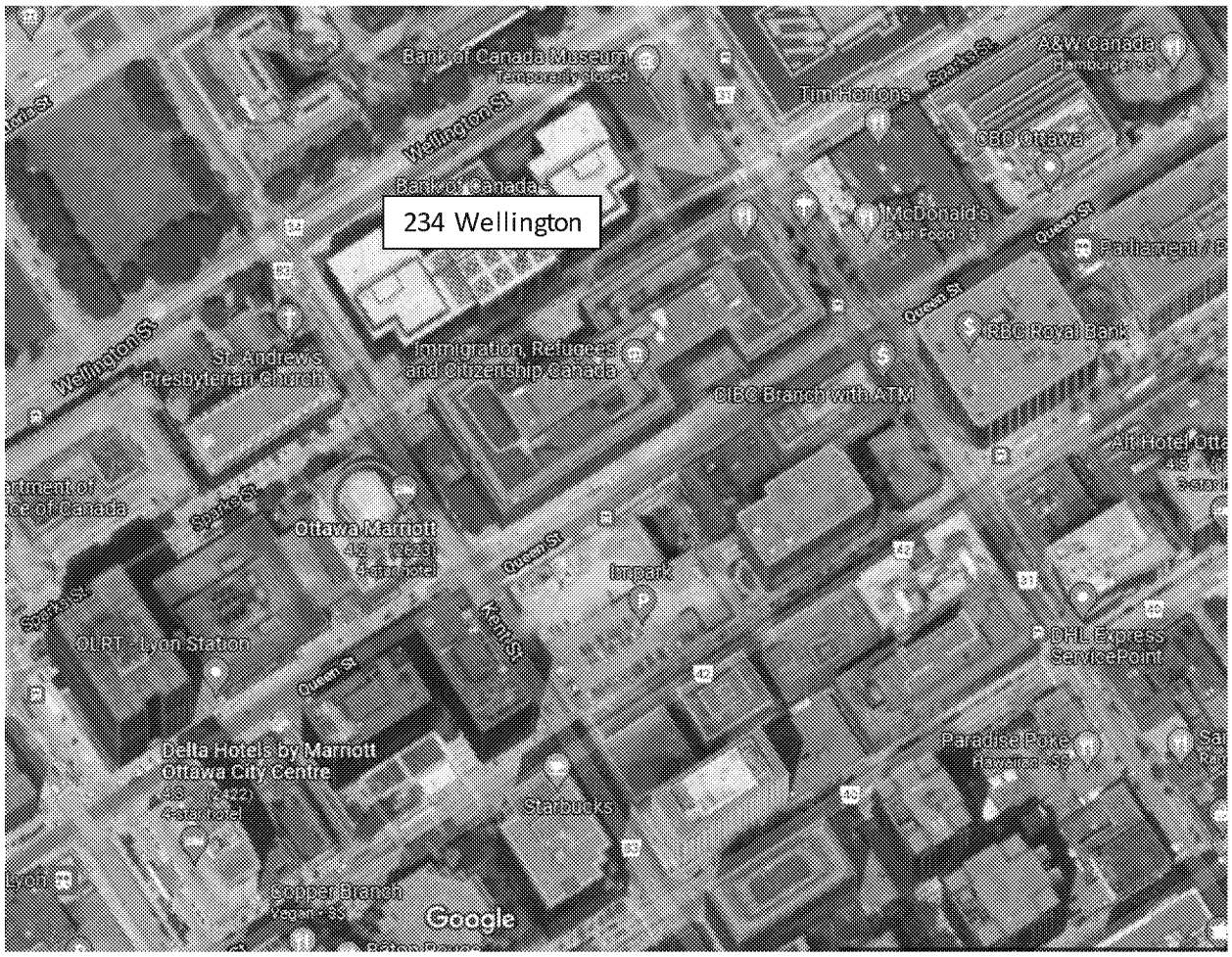
Sierra 4 2 Rideau

Sierra 5 East Block

Sierra 6 West Block



Sierra 7 234 Wellington Bank of Canada



Appendix 2 – Contacts

Tactical Commander	Marc Clement	[redacted]
	Andy Moore	
Team Lead on Ground	Shane DeHartog	
	Tyson Currier	
Sniper Coordinator	Jim Hutchins	
CBRNE Lead	Sean Wright	